



**State of New Jersey**  
Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council  
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# Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council FACT SHEET

## Highlands Region

- Total area: 859,358 acres (approximately 1,343 square miles).
- Provides drinking water for over 5 million residents of New Jersey.
- Highlands Act, passed in 2004, divided region into Preservation Area and Planning area.
- Approximately 415,000 acres in the Preservation Area.
- Approximately 444,000 acres in the Planning Area.
- Development is more strictly regulated in the Preservation Area than the Planning Area.

## Highlands Communities

- 88 municipalities (within 7 counties) have lands within the Highlands Region.
- 47 have lands in both Planning and Preservation Areas.
- 36 have lands only in the Planning Area.
- 5 have lands only within the Preservation Area.

## Timeline of Highlands Act and Regional Master Plan

- 1992 – U.S. Forest Service issues a report on the New York and New Jersey Highlands, which serves as an impetus for efforts to protect the natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands.
- 2002 – U.S. Forest Service study is updated, finding an 11 percent increase in population in the New York and New Jersey Highlands Region from 1990 to 2000.
- August 10, 2004 – The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (“the Act”) is enacted by the State Legislature of New Jersey. The Act establishes the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council and mandates that the Council create a Regional Master Plan to “protect and enhance the significant values of the resources” of the Highlands.
- November 30, 2006 – Draft Regional Master Plan released for public comment.
- May 11, 2007 – Public comment period closes.
- November 30, 2007 – Final Draft of the Regional Master Plan released for public comment.
- February 28, 2008 – Public comment period closes.
- July 17, 2008 – Regional Master Plan approved by Highlands Council.
- September 8, 2008 - Regional Master Plan becomes effective.

## **Regional Master Plan Conformance**

- Highlands Act **requires** counties and municipalities to align local master plans and development regulations with the Regional Master Plan **for Preservation Area lands**.
- Conformance for Planning Area lands is voluntary.

**As of February 2013:**

### **Municipal Petitions and Approvals**

- 60 municipalities (of 88 total in the Region) are engaged in the Plan Conformance Process (have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance):
  - 46 with lands in both Planning and Preservation Areas.
  - 5 Preservation Area only.
  - 9 Planning Area only.
- 51 of the 52 municipalities that have lands in the Preservation Area have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance for those lands.
- 34 of the 83 municipalities that have lands in the Planning Area are voluntarily conforming for those lands, including:
  - 25 of the 47 municipalities that have lands in both Areas.
  - 9 of the 36 municipalities that have lands only in the Planning Area.
- 44 municipal Petitions for Plan Conformance have been approved by the Highlands Council.

### **County Petitions and Approvals**

- 5 counties (of the 7 in the Region) have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance, all conforming for Preservation Area lands only.
- 2 county Petitions for Plan Conformance have been approved by the Highlands Council.

# Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council

## FACT SHEET

page 3 of 3

### Highlands Municipalities and Counties

88 municipalities, 7 counties | Petition Status as of February 2013

#### **Bergen County**\*◇

Mahwah Township \*◆✓

Oakland Borough \*◆

#### **Hunterdon County**\*

Alexandria Township \*◇✓

Bethlehem Township \*◆✓

Bloomsbury Borough ‡◆✓

Califon Borough ‡◆✓

Clinton Town \*◆✓

Clinton Township \*◆

Glen Gardner Borough ‡◆✓

Hampton Borough \*◆✓

High Bridge Borough †◆✓

Holland Township \*◆✓

Lebanon Borough †◆✓

Lebanon Township \*◆✓

Milford Borough †

Tewksbury Township \*◆✓

Union Township \*◆

#### **Morris County**\*◇

Boonton Town †

Boonton Township \*

Butler Borough †

Chester Borough †

Chester Township \*◆✓

Denville Township \*◇✓

Dover Town †

Hanover Township †

Harding Township †

Jefferson Township \*◇

Kinnelon Borough \*◆✓

Mendham Borough †

Mendham Township †

Mine Hill Township †

Montville Township \*◇✓

Morris Township †

Morris Plains Borough †◆

Morristown Town †

Mountain Lakes Borough †

Mount Arlington Borough \*◇✓

Mount Olive Township \*◇✓

Netcong Borough †

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township †◆

Pequannock Township \*◇

Randolph Township \*◆✓

Riverdale Borough †

Rockaway Borough †

Rockaway Township \*◆✓

Roxbury Township \*◇

Victory Gardens Borough †

Washington Township \*◆✓

Wharton Borough †◆✓

#### **Passaic County**\*◇✓

Bloomington Borough \*◆✓

Pompton Lakes Borough †

Ringwood Borough ‡◆✓

Wanaque Borough \*◆

West Milford Township ‡◆✓

#### **Somerset County**\*◇✓

Bedminster Township \*◇✓

Bernards Township †

Bernardsville Borough †

Far Hills Borough †◆

Peapack Gladstone Borough †

#### **Sussex County**\*◇

Byram Township \*◆✓

Franklin Borough †

Green Township \*◇✓

Hamburg Borough †

Hardyston Township \*◇✓

Hopatcong Borough \*◆✓

Ogdensburg Borough \*◇✓

Sparta Township \*◇✓

Stanhope Borough †◆

Vernon Township \*◇✓

#### **Warren County**\*

Allamuchy Township \*◇✓

Alpha Borough †◆✓

Belvidere Town †

Franklin Township †◇✓

Frelinghuysen Township †

Greenwich Township \*◆

Hackettstown Town \*◆✓

Harmony Township \*◇✓

Hope Township †

Independence Township \*◇

Liberty Township \*◇

Lopatcong Township \*◆✓

Mansfield Township \*

Oxford Township \*◆✓

Phillipsburg Town †◆✓

Pohatcong Township \*◆✓

Washington Borough †

Washington Township \*◆✓

White Township \*◇

\* Planning and Preservation Area

† Planning Area Only

‡ Preservation Area Only

◆ Petition Whole Municipality

◇ Petition Pres Only

✓ Petition Approved